

**R&D Projects of VRDE**

1084. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Vehicle Research and Development Establishment (VRDE) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation carrying out R&D activities on wheeled and tracked vehicles primarily for the Army has completed 19 projects after spending crores of rupees in the last decade;
- (b) whether only four of the projects went finally into bulk production and led to a heavy sum of wasteful expenditure; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. VRDE has completed 18 projects successfully for the Army during 1988—1998, which involved an outlay of Rs. 9.72 Crore.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Expenditure on R&D projects is not considered wasteful as all technologies developed and experience gained are utilized in future programmes. VRDE has completed all 18 projects while 4 went into bulk production during 1988—1998, the fifth one namely, 'Operation Theatre (OT) complex on wheels' was productionised in the year 2000 and yet another one, namely kitchen lorry is under process of productionisation. However R&D projects go in for production based on objectives of the project and users' immediate and futuristic requirements.

**Change in Uniform of Lady Officers of MNS**

1085. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the lady officers of Military Nursing Services have requested not to implement the proposal of change in uniform from present olive green trousers and shirts to a knee-length coat and trousers;